

UP TO JULY 5, 1968

## 3,024 U.S. aircraft were downed in North Viet Nam

# VIETNAM COURIER

Information Weekly - E.O. : 46 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi - Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

July 8  
1968  
No 172  
5th Year

## U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM KHE SANH

# A PUBLIC ADMISSION OF U.S. STRATEGY'S FIASCO

In a communiqué issued in Saigon on June 27, the U.S. Command announced that its troops had begun evacuating Khe Sanh. *Giai Phong Press Agency* confirmed the fact and gave the first balance-sheet of enemy losses in this sector, which we published in our last issue.

Thus, the first important move taken by General Abrams as C-in-C of U.S. forces in South Viet Nam was to abandon this forward post, a "western anchor to a line of forts" installed by his predecessor since mid-1966 and strung out parallel to the temporary military demarcation line, along Highway No 9. The reason given by the U.S. Command for this withdrawal was, according to *Reuters*, rather simple: Khe Sanh is now unnecessary to U.S. strategy! Believe it or not, as you like, but one could hardly forget that pathetic meeting held not long ago at which L.B. Johnson asked his chiefs of staff to give a written pledge to hold on at all costs to this valley located in the extreme north-western tip of South Viet Nam.

### THE LONGEST SIEGE, THE FIERCEST CONFRONTATION OF THE WAR

The siege of Khe Sanh by the P.L.A.F. practically began on January 25, shortly before the Tet simultaneous uprisings and general offensive. Since then, the enemy forces had got no

breathing space in this sector. Operation *Pegasus* in April involving 15,000 men, mostly G.I.'s of the First Cavalry, was but a futile effort and costly at that in terms of human lives and material damage. A force of some 6,000 Marines remained under siege and constant threat of destruction in spite of a gigantic effort made by the U.S. artillery and air force.

Assailed with a deluge of steel and fire which far surpassed in intensity all wars known of by mankind thus far\*, the P.L.A.F. have been displaying such combativity, cleverness, tenacity and endurance as command the admiration of even the enemy. They have succeeded in maintaining a continued pressure on the enemy positions. They have been making good use of very varied forms of combat: wiping out enemy man-power and material reserves with mortar and artillery fire, assaulting or besieging positions, cutting land, air and river supply routes, intercepting enemy reinforcements, etc. In short, the battle of Khe Sanh has been not only the longest siege but also a direct confrontation between the contending forces, as far as the morale and value of the troops and the operational direction and fighting technique are concerned.

From this 22 week-long duel, P.L.A.F. have come out victorious by putting out of action 15,000 enemy troops

(or 100 men per day) including 11,700 G.I.'s and shooting down 1,000 planes, damaging 1,000 aircraft, 1000 vehicles and 100 pieces of artillery.

MOVING INTO KHE SANH  
AN INDICATION OF THE  
STRATEGIC LOSS OF  
INITIATIVE

WESTMORELAND set up this base in Autumn 1966 after he had been forced to put off sine die the occupation of the Mekong Delta by U.S. troops, planned for the "second dry-season offensive." Thus the move was taken in a situation of strategic passivity, something which badly affected the subsequent development of the operations in this sector, as well as in the whole area north of Quang Tri province with the bases of Con Viet, Dong Ha, Doc Mien, Con Yen, Hill 941 or Camp Carroll (heavy artillery base).

The U.S. Command always considered the Khe Sanh combat base the keystone

(Continued page 8)

\* According to the western press, during the first 80 days of the siege, the Americans dropped 115,000 tons of ordinary bombs (the same amount was used against Japan during World War II) and fired 101,741 shells in direct support of their troops at Khe Sanh.

## South Viet Nam

- One Week After Khe Sanh Evacuation Order, the Yankees Still Fail To Pull Out Completely and Suffer 700 Casualties.
- A Puppet Battalion Wiped Out, Two Others Decimated North-East of Saigon.
- Biggest Bridge in Mekong Delta Blown Up.
- Div. Americal H.Q. Stormed.

PAGE 8

## DEEDS, Mr JOHNSON

MR Harriman was not present at the tenth session of the Paris talks. But it is not this absence that causes me not to address him today: there is a time for everything, a time for questions, and then a time when answers must come. I know that the real answer should come not from Mr Harriman, but from higher up.

I may be told that the President of the United States has clearly stated his intentions a long time ago and that his will for peace has manifested itself in many a speech. Who doesn't remember the famous Baltimore speech? It was the 7th of April, 1965, two months after the start of savage bombings on the

D.R.V.N. Did anyone ever hear the president of a super-power speak with such modesty, nay such humility? He simply asked for negotiations, without any pre-conditions. He added that he was even ready to devote a billion dollars to help the unhappy peoples of Southeast Asia free themselves from misery. The speech ended with a veritable prayer: "Every night before I turn out the light to sleep, I ask myself this question: Have I done everything I can to help to bring peace and hope to all the peoples of the world?" More than three years have passed. Whose fault is it if peace hasn't returned?

(Continued page 7)



U.S. aircraft downed by P.L.A.F. at Khe Sanh

# "THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AS THE VICTIMS OF U.S. AGGRESSION"

THE President of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation issued on June 4 a statement asserting that the South Vietnamese people's inalienable right to step up their struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation and the liberation of South Viet Nam.

The statement reads in full as follows: "Developing their victorious spirit and their strong position, the South Vietnamese people, since the Lunar New Year, have staged many simultaneous uprisings skillfully combining armed attacks with popular insurrections, have dealt serious blows at the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen, and won very big victories, driving the enemy into an utter predicament."

"The populations of Saigon, Cho Lon, Gia Dinh, and other urban centers, in co-ordination with the patriotic armed forces, have fought vigorously and with great courage a series of military battles and nerve centers of the enemy, causing heavy losses."

"In face of the danger of irretrievable collapse, the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen are frantically dumping shells and gas on heavily populated areas in order to terrorize the civilian population in South Viet Nam, killing or wounding tens of thousands of civilians, rendering homeless hundreds

of thousands of others. They have caused heavy destruction to Hanoi, a city with many cultural and historical relics, over 30,000 dwelling houses in the South Vietnamese cities. Recently, they went so far as to 'demolish' free bombing areas which include large areas north and south of Saigon, thus revealing their cynical scheme to massacre civilians."

"In face of the condemnation by the Vietnamese people and the whole world's peoples, the U.S. puppets and their propaganda are spreading impudent slanders, in an attempt to make black and white, to put the blame on the patriotic armed forces for the losses of civilian lives in South Vietnamese towns."

"This is but a customary trick of their 'crying stop thief' of the U.S. aggressors and their quislings."

"Everybody knows that for more than 10 years now the whole policy of the U.S. in South Viet Nam is to intervene to a special war, thus a 'local war' conducted with the most barbaric and special methods—has spread a series of military battles and nerve centers of the enemy, causing heavy losses."

"In face of the danger of irretrievable collapse, the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen are frantically dumping shells and gas on heavily populated areas in order to terrorize the civilian population in South Viet Nam, killing or wounding tens of thousands of civilians, rendering homeless hundreds

of thousands of others. They have caused heavy destruction to Hanoi, a city with many cultural and historical relics, over 30,000 dwelling houses in the South Vietnamese cities. Recently, they went so far as to 'demolish' free bombing areas which include large areas north and south of Saigon, thus revealing their cynical scheme to massacre civilians."

"This is but a customary trick of their 'crying stop thief' of the U.S. aggressors and their quislings."

"Everybody knows that for more than 10 years now the whole policy of the U.S. in South Viet Nam is to intervene to a special war, thus a 'local war' conducted with the most barbaric and special methods—has spread a series of military battles and nerve centers of the enemy, causing heavy losses."

"In face of the danger of irretrievable collapse, the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen are frantically dumping shells and gas on heavily populated areas in order to terrorize the civilian population in South Viet Nam, killing or wounding tens of thousands of civilians, rendering homeless hundreds

of thousands of others. They have caused heavy destruction to Hanoi, a city with many cultural and historical relics, over 30,000 dwelling houses in the South Vietnamese cities. Recently, they went so far as to 'demolish' free bombing areas which include large areas north and south of Saigon, thus revealing their cynical scheme to massacre civilians."

"This is but a customary trick of their 'crying stop thief' of the U.S. aggressors and their quislings."

"Everybody knows that for more than 10 years now the whole policy of the U.S. in South Viet Nam is to intervene to a special war, thus a 'local war' conducted with the most barbaric and special methods—has spread a series of military battles and nerve centers of the enemy, causing heavy losses."

"In face of the danger of irretrievable collapse, the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen are frantically dumping shells and gas on heavily populated areas in order to terrorize the civilian population in South Viet Nam, killing or wounding tens of thousands of civilians, rendering homeless hundreds

of thousands of others. They have caused heavy destruction to Hanoi, a city with many cultural and historical relics, over 30,000 dwelling houses in the South Vietnamese cities. Recently, they went so far as to 'demolish' free bombing areas which include large areas north and south of Saigon, thus revealing their cynical scheme to massacre civilians."

"This is but a customary trick of their 'crying stop thief' of the U.S. aggressors and their quislings."

"Everybody knows that for more than 10 years now the whole policy of the U.S. in South Viet Nam is to intervene to a special war, thus a 'local war' conducted with the most barbaric and special methods—has spread a series of military battles and nerve centers of the enemy, causing heavy losses."

"In face of the danger of irretrievable collapse, the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen are frantically dumping shells and gas on heavily populated areas in order to terrorize the civilian population in South Viet Nam, killing or wounding tens of thousands of civilians, rendering homeless hundreds

of thousands of others. They have caused heavy destruction to Hanoi, a city with many cultural and historical relics, over 30,000 dwelling houses in the South Vietnamese cities. Recently, they went so far as to 'demolish' free bombing areas which include large areas north and south of Saigon, thus revealing their cynical scheme to massacre civilians."

"This is but a customary trick of their 'crying stop thief' of the U.S. aggressors and their quislings."

"Everybody knows that for more than 10 years now the whole policy of the U.S. in South Viet Nam is to intervene to a special war, thus a 'local war' conducted with the most barbaric and special methods—has spread a series of military battles and nerve centers of the enemy, causing heavy losses."

"In face of the danger of irretrievable collapse, the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen are frantically dumping shells and gas on heavily populated areas in order to terrorize the civilian population in South Viet Nam, killing or wounding tens of thousands of civilians, rendering homeless hundreds

# THE NORTH - GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

SINCE the U.S. escalation started three years ago, many American friends who have visited Hanoi, declared that they were enjoying the fruits of a budding peace in North Viet Nam. I say American friends because there are other, uninvited Americans who are making unauthorized visits—the U.S.A.F. pilots who came and rained death and mourning over our

Hanoi itself, though fully prepared for battle, did not appear agitated or mobilized. It seemed that they were enjoying the fruits of a budding peace in North Viet Nam. I say American friends because there are other, uninvited Americans who are making unauthorized visits—the U.S.A.F. pilots who came and rained death and mourning over our

Lake and young lovers walking hand in hand. He wished to provide information that would enable the American public to debate the issue of Viet Nam intelligently. He would like to make the youth know much better about U.S. crimes against the Vietnamese. He did report to them that life was going on in Hanoi: "You must know that we will go to Viet Nam fighting young Vietnamese will know the way you are living here." In a visit to the subject—the Army, Mr. Stetler presented his draft card. He wanted to let it there, as he would never enlist to fight his Vietnamese friends.

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

"The Little Lake in the center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces. They can continue school. But those remaining in Hanoi are not allowed to stop the shelters, running and shouting inside of them. Young couples spend evenings together on the park benches between the shelters, strolling along the rim of the lake, or riding bicycles together down the sidewalks. Still others drink coffee or beer on the porch of an outdoor restaurant, overlooking the lake, which under French rule was the center of Hanoi."

# PARIS TAKES ELEVENTH SESSION

THE 11th session of the official conversations between the representatives of the D.R.V.N. Government and other people now opposing the U.S. dirty war in Viet Nam, was held in Paris on July 3, 1968.

Minister Xuan Thuy spoke first. He pointed out that the U.S. side which was waiting obediently for appropriate times and circumstances to cease the U.S. bombings of the D.R.V.N., in fact kept setting conditions for a bombing halt—a legitimate demand of the Vietnamese people and public opinion.

He pointed to the absurdity and desecration of Mr. Johnson's March 31 statement which asserted that the cessation of bombing "would endanger the lives of our men." The above American allegation, Mr. Xuan Thuy stressed, is aimed at sidetracking the struggle of the American soldiers, youths and other people now opposing the U.S. dirty war in Viet Nam.

In connection with U.S. Independence Day (July 4), Mr. Xuan Thuy stated that it is the American people who have betrayed the famous Declaration of Independence of the U.S. nearly 200 years ago, and says that all men are created equal and that among their inalienable rights, are the rights to live, to be free and to enjoy happiness.

Rushing headlong into the costly war in Viet Nam, the U.S. aggressors and war-maniacs have directly and indirectly mobilized their entire ground forces, 90 per cent of tactical air force, as important part of the States. What force and to the U.S. Navy, and so on. They have squandered annually over 30 billion dollars in military cases, the great difficulties in finance and currency the serious consequences of which are affecting the lives of the American people. Hundreds of thousands of American youths have been sent to Viet Nam, an unnecessary and senseless death in Viet Nam; the American people have to pay heavy bills for the great living costs, more and more families have lost their husbands, sons and daughters in the unjust war launched by the U.S. Government.

In this war, the U.S. aggressors have sustained ever greater failures and losses. All their up-to-date war plans have proved ineffective in the face of the unflinching struggle of the entire Vietnamese people. On the other hand, the U.S. aggressors have inspired more seriously than ever before the position and prestige of the U.S. in the international community.

Mr. Xuan Thuy mentioned the growing movement of the American people of all strata against the U.S. aggressive war in Viet Nam. Dr. Ben-

jamin Spock, one of the leaders of that movement, was sentenced by the U.S. ruling circles for his opposition to the U.S. war in Viet Nam. He said: "The Vietnamese people have done no harm to the United States. What they have done is to defend their country and to oppose the unjustifiable massacre by our country's air force. The American people would do the same if any country on the other hemisphere wanted to impose a puppet government upon them."

"With regard to the American pilots who have flown raids on the D.R.V.N.," declared Mr. Xuan Thuy, "we consider them as authors of serious crimes caught red-handed. But our government's policy toward them is humanitarian."

Mr. Xuan Thuy concluded: "The U.S. must stop its war of aggression against Viet Nam. This is the essential thing to save American youths from death and to extricate the U.S. from its predicament. This is the essential thing to save the honour of the U.S., a country with a glorious history in its past and a great future in its future."

Such a step fully conforms to the interests of the Vietnamese and the American peoples and to the interests of world peace. That is why, once again, I call on the U.S. government, on the U.S. representative present here to take a realistic view

and a realistic move, namely to stop aggression against Viet Nam. This is the essential thing to save American youths from death and to extricate the U.S. from its predicament. This is the essential thing to save the honour of the U.S., a country with a glorious history in its past and a great future in its future."

Such a step fully conforms to the interests of the Vietnamese and the American peoples and to the interests of world peace. That is why, once again, I call on the U.S. government, on the U.S. representative present here to take a realistic view

and a realistic move, namely to stop aggression against Viet Nam. This is the essential thing to save American youths from death and to extricate the U.S. from its predicament. This is the essential thing to save the honour of the U.S., a country with a glorious history in its past and a great future in its future."

Such a step fully conforms to the interests of the Vietnamese and the American peoples and to the interests of world peace. That is why, once again, I call on the U.S. government, on the U.S. representative present here to take a realistic view

and a realistic move, namely to stop aggression against Viet Nam. This is the essential thing to save American youths from death and to extricate the U.S. from its predicament. This is the essential thing to save the honour of the U.S., a country with a glorious history in its past and a great future in its future."

Such a step fully conforms to the interests of the Vietnamese and the American peoples and to the interests of world peace. That is why, once again, I call on the U.S. government, on the U.S. representative present here to take a realistic view

and a realistic move, namely to stop aggression against Viet Nam. This is the essential thing to save American youths from death and to extricate the U.S. from its predicament. This is the essential thing to save the honour of the U.S., a country with a glorious history in its past and a great future in its future."

Such a step fully conforms to the interests of the Vietnamese and the American peoples and to the interests of world peace. That is why, once again, I call on the U.S. government, on the U.S. representative present here to take a realistic view

and a realistic move, namely to stop aggression against Viet Nam. This is the essential thing to save American youths from death and to extricate the U.S. from its predicament. This is the essential thing to save the honour of the U.S., a country with a glorious history in its past and a great future in its future."

Such a step fully conforms to the interests of the Vietnamese and the American peoples and to the interests of world peace. That is why, once again, I call on the U.S. government, on the U.S. representative present here to take a realistic view

and a realistic move, namely to stop aggression against Viet Nam. This is the essential thing to save American youths from death and to extricate the U.S. from its predicament. This is the essential thing to save the honour of the U.S., a country with a glorious history in its past and a great future in its future."

Such a step fully conforms to the interests of the Vietnamese and the American peoples and to the interests of world peace. That is why, once again, I call on the U.S. government, on the U.S. representative present here to take a realistic view

# AFRICAN COUNTRIES RESOLUTELY SUPPORT OUR STRUGGLE AGAINST U.S. AGGRESSION

VICE-MINISTER for Foreign Affairs Hoang Van Thuy declared that the D.R.V.N. Government, has returned to Hanoi after a visit to the African Democratic and People's Republic, the Republic of Mali, the Republic of Guinea, the United Arab Republic, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

During his tour Hoang Van Thuy was accorded a warm welcome by the governments and peoples of the host countries and a cordial reception by their Presidents, Premiers and other leaders.

The D.R.V.N. Government envoy pointed them up about the Vietnamese people's patriotic fight, the positions of the D.R.V.N. Government and the South Viet Nam N.F.L. on the settlement of Viet Nam problem. The Presidents and other leaders of these friendly countries severely criticized the U.S. imperialists' aggression and crimes against the Vietnamese people to both condemn their obscenity and perjury at the current 'conversations' in Paris. They also appreciated the great contributions of the South Viet Nam people for the cause of national liberation.

Hoang Van Thuy extended to the Governments and peoples of the African countries and ancient thanks of the D.R.V.N. Government and South Viet Nam people for their support.

Times—Weekly Review—May 25, 1968

"Growth statistics, offered everywhere, on bicycle, over-cash, irrigation, rice harvests, maternity clinics, literacy are the answer to the 'war of destruction' which began in the 1950s and even today is held there. The priests seem to disperse during the summer holidays. They clean when most of the people are, and then they return for Sunday Mass."

"The atmosphere of the city from the Premier, whom we interviewed, down to the people who served in the kitchen, the cleaners, our hotel rooms—was one of confidence and cheerfulness. From the lecture on the face of thousands, you get the impression of people who are going to make it, and they are making it." (in America, March 9, 1968).

"On a big billboard in the city center the number of U.S. planes shot down is revised forward daily in red paint—318, then 319, then 320. When I left, and the number keeps growing. In villages the score is kept on a blackboard."

"Everything they build is dated, down to the family walls in a banner—a memento of the country's progress. It is like a clear signpost in the story of resistance: 1955 or 1960, stamped on the wall. It is a record that it was built in spite of the air strikes." S.P.

# 3,000 U.S. AIRCRAFT DOWNED IN NORTH VIET NAM



Conventional A.A. Defence (a Haiphong unit)



People's Militia (a unit of militia women in Ha Tinh province)

## 47 MODELS OF U.S. AIRCRAFT DOWNED

- 1 model of strategic bomber: B-57 Canberra.
- 17 models of fighter-bombers and 6 of fighters well-known for their high performance: F-4 Phantom, F-105 Thunderchief, A-1H Intruder, A-4 Skyhawk, F-8 Crusader, and the famous "variable geometry" F-111-A.
- 13 models of reconnaissance planes including RB-66 Destroyer, equipped with expensive electronic instruments, and a robot spy plane.
- 4 models of survey and patrol planes of U.S. Navy including the electronic four-engine EC-119 Warning Star.
- 3 models of transports.
- 3 models of helicopters including the OH-6A pilotless jet spy helicopter.

Surface-to-air missiles

## Those Who Helped Toward the 3,000-Mark



People's Navy (artillery of an elite unit)

People's Air Force (Major Tran Hanh, hero of the armed forces, returning from a victorious flight)



## A WAR THAT SWALLOWS UP DOLLARS

U.S. aggression against Viet Nam is known as the most expensive war ever fought by the U.S. The air war brutally waged against the D.R.V.N. since August 5, 1964 accounts for an important part of the

bill footed by the Pentagon. Hereunder are some figures supplied by the U.S. organs concerned and the American press.

Up to June 25, 1968, after 1431 days of attacks against North Viet Nam, the U.S. air forces lost 3,000 planes, most of them up-to-date jets, at an average loss of 2 aircraft per day for four years running. Topping by far the list of these 3,000 planes downed are F-105 Thunderchiefs and Phantom which respectively cost 1.5 million and 3 million dollars each. The night-bomber, A-6 Intruder, grounded by the do-

zen in the D.R.V.N. (mostly by infantry fire) costs 3 million apiece and an RB-66 Destroyer electronic reconnaissance plane, 6 million. The most expensive are the Stratofortress B-52, a big 8-turbo-prop strategic bomber of the U.S.A.F. which costs 9.5 million dollars (6 of which have been downed in the D.R.V.N.), and the F-111-A variable geometry swing-wing fighter-bomber, the most up-to-date American plane which costs 7 million dollars (1 of which have been shot down by North Viet Nam).

THE U.S. has lost in North Viet Nam thousands of airmen captured, killed, or wounded to unfitness for

flying missions. As the western press says, a pilot "is worth his weight in gold" and to be rated as a jet pilot he must fly at least 600 hours (one hour consumes 3,000 litres of fuel). The training of a pilot capable of flying all-weather missions requires eight years and costs 77,000 dollars on the average.

THE price of each ton of bomb is 2,000 dollars, that of a 15-rocket container 1,000 dollars and a flare 75 dollars.

Because of the shortage of bombs, the U.S. imperialists had to repurchase from West Germany at 21 dollars each the jet they had sold at 1.72 dollars each, or 13 times dearer.

As by December 1967 U.S. planes had used in Viet Nam 500,000 tons of bombs, this represents a handsome sum of 1.3 billion dollars.

ROGER HILSMAN, former Assistant Secretary of State in charge of Far-Eastern Affairs, revealed on March 26, 1968 that the bombing of North Viet Nam had swallowed up 6 billion dollars, including 4.5 billion of the jet they had sold at 1.72 dollars each. That is, of course, a very conservative estimate.

So many billion dollars supplied by American taxpayers have gone down the drain, such has been the achievement of Johnson and Company.

# 3,000 U.S. AIRCRAFT DOWNED IN NORTH VIET NAM

## SCORE-BOARD OF NORTH VIET NAM ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENCE VERSUS U.S. AIR FORCE

U.S. Annual loss of aircraft since the first air raids on the D.R.V.N.:  
12 in 1964 (since August 5)  
534 in 1965  
773 in 1966  
1084 in 1967  
332 in 1968 (first six months)  
Total: 3018 (up to June 30, 1968)  
U.S. heaviest monthly losses:  
April 1965: 163 planes downed.  
May 1967: 160  
October 1967: 131  
November 1967: 131  
July 1968: 123  
August 1967: 116  
September 1967: 111  
August 1966: 109  
October 1965: 105  
U.S. heaviest and memorable daily losses:  
August 5, 1964: surprise attacks on 4 localities in the D.R.V.N., beginning of escalation: 8 planes downed.  
February 7, 1965: beginning of regular raids: 4 planes downed over Dong Hoi (latitude 17°30' N).  
April 3 and 4, 1965: 57 planes downed including 37 over two big bridges near the south parallel reached by U.S. escalation toward the end of May.  
June 29, 1966: First raids on urban areas of Hanoi and Haiphong: 7 planes downed.  
December 13 and 14, 1966: 12 planes downed by Hanoi A.A. Defence.  
December 30, 1967: 2 B-52 strategic bombers downed over Vinh Lich (17th parallel).  
March 28, 1968: The first F-111-A swing-wing plane

downed in Ha Tinh province three days after the commissioning of the first squadron of this type of planes. Two days later, a second one was downed west of Hanoi.  
Achievements of various areas:  
- Conventional A.A. Defence has had its lion's share in the downing of the 3,000 planes. Its most remarkable months and battles were:  
183 planes downed in April 1965.  
86 planes downed in September 1965.  
84 planes downed in July 1966.  
82 planes downed in August 1966.  
87 planes downed in May 1967.  
18 planes downed over Haiphong on April 23, 1967.  
10 planes downed over Hanoi on May 19, 1967.  
8 planes downed within a minutes on October 17, 1967 over Bac Giang.  
1 planes downed over Con Co Island (19th parallel) on May 31, 1968.  
Surface-to-air missile units have made great progress. The number of American planes grounded by this recent arm of the People's Armed Forces in 1967 doubled that of 1966 which reached the hundreds. The most memorable months and days were:  
39 planes downed in May 1967.  
38 planes downed in October 1967.  
21 planes downed in July

1966.  
37 planes downed in November 1967.  
8 planes downed on November 19, 1967.  
7 planes downed on each of the days October 5, 1965, July 19, 1966 and October 27, 1967.  
The People's Air Force has to its credit several hundred enemy planes downed, often in unequal dog fights. In 1967, it grounded a number of planes double that of 1966 and 8 times that of 1965.  
Its most glorious months and days were:  
May 1967: 83 U.S. planes downed.  
April 1967: 16 U.S. planes downed.  
September 1967: 12 U.S. planes downed.  
November 1967: 11 U.S. planes downed.  
December 1967: 11 U.S. planes downed.  
Our air force won its first victory on April 3, 1965 by downing 2 F-4s and the 20th parallel. It bagged 5 planes on each of the days: April 30 and May 5, 1965. 4 planes (including that of U.S.A.F. Colonel Norman Goddard) on May 15, 1967 and 4 planes on each of six other days.  
The People's Navy has co-ordinated its action with ground A.A. batteries and has outstandingly contributed to victory, chiefly in the defence of the famous Ham Hong bridge over which 47 American planes were downed on



April 3 and 4, 1965 in Haiphong, our naval units brought down 4 planes on July 7, 1966 alone.  
- The worker and peasant militia have up to May 31, 1968, downed with infantry weapons, 244 American planes (including 31 in night combats) made up of 18 models such as A-1H Intruder, F-4 Phantom, F-105 Thunderchief, examined planes and helicopters.  
Young country women have downed 17 and old men over fifty 6 of these up-to-date planes.  
The part played by various provinces and regions in the downing of American planes is shown in the map above (up to June 25, 1968). The record is held by Quang Binh province with 472 planes downed, followed by Nghe An province (382), Thanh Hoa province (271), Hanoi (288) and Haiphong (210). Four provinces have downed between 118 and 190 planes and 9 others between 80 and 100.

## SOME U.S. PILOTS Captured Before and After March 31, 1968



- 1 - John Peter Flynn, born 1922, Ohio, U.S.A.F. Colonel, service number 13760A, captured October 27, 1967 in Hanoi.
- 2 - John Sidney Mac Cain, born 1936, Panama, U.S. Navy Lieutenant-Commander, Panama, service number 024787, captured October 26, 1967 in Hanoi.
- 3 - Edwin Frank Miller, born 1940, New York State, Lieutenant Junior, U.S. Navy, service number 70610, pilot of a carrier Enterprise-based RF-4C, shot down by Nghe An anti-aircraft force May 23, 1968.
- 4 - Roger Dean Ingvalson, born 1928, Minnesota, Major of U.S.A.F., FR 30713, pilot of a KC-135A Stratofortress F-105D, shot down by anti-aircraft artillery over Quang Binh May 28, 1968.
- 5 - Richard George Tangeman, born 1940, New York State, Lieutenant, U.S. Navy, service number 066970, pilot of a carrier Enterprise-based RF-4C, shot down by Ha Tinh anti-aircraft force May 5, 1968.
- 6 - Westley Lewis Rumble, born 1943, California, First Lieutenant, U.S.A.F., service number F.V. 315955, pilot of a Da Nang-based F-4D, shot down by Quang Binh anti-aircraft force April 28, 1968.
- 7 - Praphan Sirion, born 1934, Udorn, warrant-officer, U.S.A.F., pilot of a Don Muang (Thailand)-based C-47, shot down by Nghe An anti-aircraft force March 26, 1966.





## N.F.L. and P.L.A.F. Acclaim North Viet Nam Armed Forces and People's Victory

<sup>10</sup>Under the clear-sighted leadership of the Viet Nam U.S. imperialists had been U.S. aggression, and further-  
frantically waging war of illustrated the historic

war. In the immediate run of this war, the U.S. aggressors were the main enemy of the Vietnamese people and the Chinese people and the People's Liberation Army, led by the great proletarian revolution and war leader Chairman Mao's teachings and to hold more aloft the national flag and the national banner, will help with the main and an unshakable anti-imperialist, anti-U.S. struggle for national independence.

Under these most provoking circumstances my captors had every justification for refusing me medical assistance. Indeed, they could have killed me. They did neither of these things. They took me to the hospital instead.

The hospital, a very fine one, with modern facilities, was located in Hanoi. My injuries were extensive: my right thigh bone was fractured with both ends of the bone protruding from the flesh; the left knee was useless.

## U.S. Pilot Japanese People the Treatment

(Continued page 7)

On July 20, 1963, Johnson reiterated his negotiation offer while announcing the sending of 50,000 more G.I.s. In December, Haiphong, until then spared, was bombed. Meanwhile Westmoreland began his great dry-season counter-offensive of

There were other things that also left a deep impression. When I first entered the hospital I had no appetite. As a result, my strength was failing fast. No effort was spared to get me to eat. I was asked what kind of food I liked the best. The food was prepared and served in a most appetizing manner. When this did not work, the

Most of this must not have come easy for them. I am certain that most of the people had lost friends or relatives, had homes damaged or destroyed or children evacuated to the countryside. All of the people were suffering daily inconveniences as a result of the attacks. I was told that the doctor who had performed the operation on me thought long and hard before finally deciding. He has deep personal feelings, but some-

**TO THE READER**

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

*We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.*

# ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

## Military Operations

### KHE SANH AND NORTH-ERN PART OF QUANG TRI PROVINCE

**T**HE P.L.A.F. have been hammering at U.S. Marines now evacuating Khe Sanh combat base. They have been combining their artillery and infantry in attacks against enemy positions and ambushes against his convoys on the road of retreat.

U.S. fortified positions on Hills 689, 552, 845, 885, 471 etc., around Ta Con (Khe Sanh base) were mortared and shelled every day. Many choppers, storehouses, ammunition depots, fuel tanks and barracks were destroyed or burnt. P.L.A.F. storming parties engaged U.S. Marines in fierce hand-to-hand fights on Hills 689 and 845 (June 25) in "Rom" plantation which fell under their control on July 1, 1968.

The same day, a convoy of 50 vehicles was intercepted with heavy adverse losses on the section of Highway No. 9 between Rao Quan and Ca Lu and a cannon parking ground at Lang Khoai was overrun: the enemy lost many men and a 105 mm cannon. Meanwhile, Hill 689 was assaulted by the P.L.A.F. who killed or wounded 130 G.I.s and downed 3 choppers. The battle was still raging on July 2.

The initial list of American losses at Khe Sanh in the week ending July 2 mentioned 700 U.S. Marines killed or wounded, 13 aircraft downed or destroyed on the ground, 3 cannons and mortars put out of action and many depots and barracks set afire. Up to now, the U.S. Command is still unable to withdraw its troops from the Khe Sanh hell.

In the sector east of Highway No. 9, the P.L.A.F. gave battle to the enemy

at Cao Viet and north of Dong Ha on June 20, 27 and 28 and inflicted on him 10 casualties, burnt 2 cargo boats and 2 depots (at Cao Viet) and damaged U.S. patrol boat No 2008 near the 17th parallel.

Giai Phong Press Agency has given details of the bombardment of Dong Ha on June 20: 400 G.I.s killed or wounded, 12 depots, about one hundred vehicles, 3 cranes, 6 aircraft including a C-130 transport, 8 ordnance pieces destroyed or damaged. The U.S. Marine Division 3 H.Q. was hit.

On June 17 and 18, a small artillery unit of the P.L.A.F. put out of action 130 G.I.s by repeatedly shelling the enemy at Cao Tien and Bai Sea.

### SAIGON AND PERIPHERY

**O**N June 20, the P.L.A.F. fired rockets on many targets such as police stations, G.I. garisons in Saigon (6th district) or in the northwest suburbs. It was the 32nd shelling of Saigon since May 5.

The same day, at Ba Diem, 10 km north of the city, the P.L.A.F. closed in upon an American unit and inflicted on it 200 casualties.

They won a brilliant victory in Binh Quan region, 80 km northwest of Saigon, on Road No. 20 from Saigon to Da Lat. On the night of June 20, they wiped out a puppet company defending a bridge on the La Nga river and destroyed it. On June 22, they ambushed a puppet battalion air dropped at 10 km to the northeast and on their way from Dinh Quan to La Nga, and put it out of action within 30 minutes. Meanwhile many other puppet units of rein-

forcement were violently attacked and 2 battalions decimated; the enemy gun emplacements in the locality were silenced by P.L.A.F. shelling.

On June 23, a convoy of 10 U.S. river craft supported by aircraft was intercepted by the P.L.A.F. at 30 km southeast of Saigon on June 23: 6 vessels set afire.

Ben Luc bridge, the biggest in the Mekong Delta, 25 km southwest of Saigon, was blown up by the guerrillas who thus cut off Highway No. 4 linking Saigon to the rich rice-producing provinces in South Viet Nam.

**S**OUTHEAST of Da Nang, the H.Q. of Division Americal at Tam Ky town was bombarded at

0 hour on June 23 and a big fire broke out with flames going up 200 metres high. A bridge near the town was also shelled: 2 vessels were damaged.

At Da Nang, the building housing an enemy military organ was mined on June 29: 20 enemy troops killed including a colonel and two lieutenant colonels.



## A PUBLIC ADMISSION OF U.S. STRATEGY'S FIASCO

(Continued from page 1)

its defence network, a position worth defending at all costs, as *USIS* remarked on Feb. 15, 1968. Yet, the embourgeoisement of the enemy at Khe Sanh only worsened. While the 6,000 U.S. Marines were pinned down in the valley, fighting raged in Hue, Da Nang and the coastal fringe of the province of the First Tactical Zone. Moreover, as the *BBC* commented on June 25, 1968, 40,000 other G.I.'s were tied down in areas close to Khe Sanh, because they had to stand ready at all times to come to the rescue of the entrapped camp. The inevitable outcome of such a state of passivity has been increased losses sustained by the U.S. troops in this sector. In its June 16, 1968 issue, the *Los Angeles Times* revealed that two-thirds of the U.S. casualties in South Viet Nam in this period were suffered by those units stationed in the First Tactical Zone, that is, the Marines, the air cavalrymen and the paratroops of the first Division.

The attacks and popular uprisings in the urban centres finally tipped the balance of forces in a decisive fashion at the expense of the aggressors and their puppets. While the P.L.A.F. grew rapidly in

force and were in a position to give battle anywhere and anytime, the enemy forces found themselves spread thinner than ever before over the whole territory. The shortage of man-power became painful for the U.S. Command, especially the mobile force and strategic reserves, and threatened them with collapse. This was what prompted its decision to evacuate Khe Sanh.

### ...BUT GETTING OUT IS A FAR WORSE SETBACK

**I**n ordering the withdrawal from Khe Sanh, the enemy publicly admitted the fiasco of his strategy. The psychological and political effects of such a move will be very unfavourable to him. The more so as for the White House and the U.S. Command in Saigon, this stronghold had become, as *Remier* put it (June 27, 1968), "the symbol of U.S. determination" to pursue the war.

Militarily, the evacuation of Khe Sanh broke the "anchor" which held, to the West, the U.S. defence set up in northern Quang Tri. Just as a small breach is to cause the loss of a whole section of dyke during a high tide, this withdrawal is to con-

siderably weaken the enemy defence line in this area and in the northern sector of South Viet Nam. According to an American paper, U.S. officers early this year were of the opinion that if the Marines withdrew from Khe Sanh, they would be able to stop only until they had reached... the China Sea.

In evacuating Khe Sanh, the U.S. Command did everything it could to try to give a slip, surreptitiously, to those who were beleaguering it. But in this, it did not succeed. Capitalizing on the disarray which seized the enemy troops, the P.L.A.F. increased their pressure. The inevitable disorder and the risks arising from this precipitated removal threaten to turn the U.S. retreat into a debacle. As a matter of fact, in a week since the evacuation began, at Khe Sanh 700 G.I.'s and puppet soldiers were killed or wounded, and large quantities of war material destroyed. An important part of the enemy forces are still unable to pull out in spite of a whole armada of choppers at the disposal of the Americans in South Viet Nam. Everything seems to indicate that for the latter, to leave the valley which has cost them much blood in this war is as difficult as to hold it.



Is this G.I. thinking of his "mission of defending freedom" in South Viet Nam?